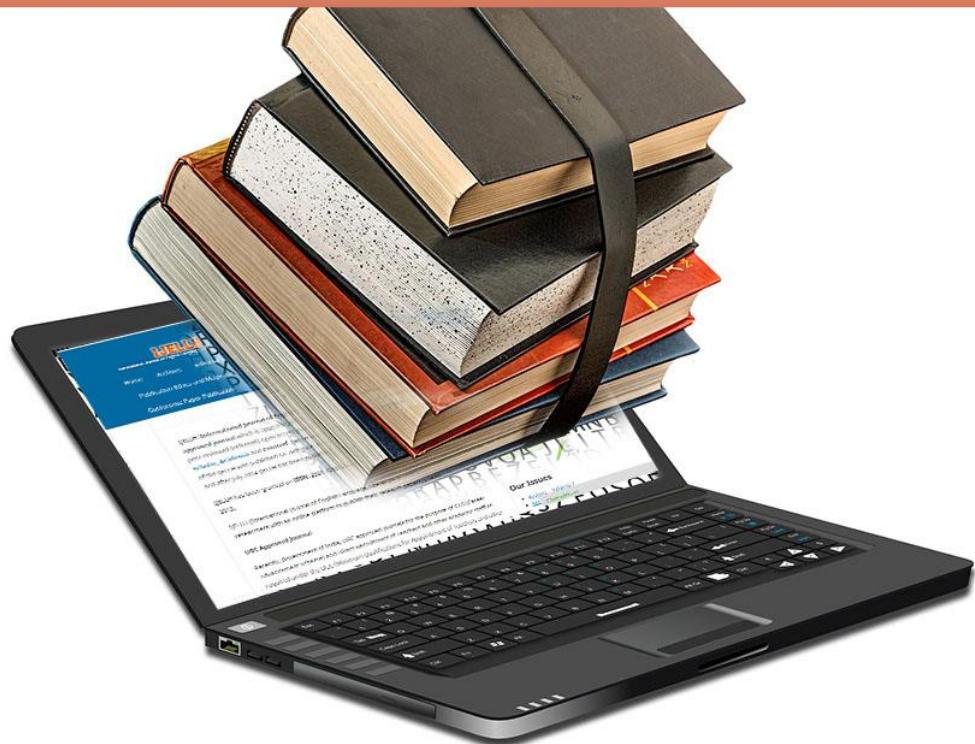


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***Effectiveness of English Movies with the Standard Subtitles in Developing Listening Skills  
and Vocabulary of Undergraduate Students- A Study***

**Abstract**

Listening is the significant feature for all the language communication. Listening skills require more intelligence than speaking. Standard subtitles play a major role in developing listening skills and vocabulary of non-native undergraduate students. Every year the number of English learners increases and the language learning techniques and methods are the most debatable issue ever. With the rapid development of innovative technologies, more and more mechanical aids are involved in the language learning process. More importantly, all the mechanical aids, techniques and methods are meant to develop the learners listening skills. This paper explains the fact that how the second language learners can improve their listening skills and vocabulary of the English language by watching the English movies with standard subtitles.

**Key words - innovative, learning techniques, listening skills, pronunciation, technologies, vocabulary**

**Introduction**

English is the most widely spoken languages and it is the most popularly studied language by many people[1]. It is interesting that 70 percent of communication in English takes place among those who are not actually native speakers. English is the massive means of communication. It seems all the people in the world have agreed to use English to talk to one another. Since English is spoken in many countries as a second language and so many people see the key to success through learning English[1]. If you are fluent in English, you can run business abroad, study in other countries, travel more easily. English language can give you a right path and direction in all sorts of life. There were many methods invented to develop the English language and all these methods are followed by the instructors[2]. Still the second language learners find it difficult to understand the nuances of English and fail to achieve the efficiency of the target language. Though the methods were created in the interestingly but some instructors really struggle to implement it in the classroom situation. Many instructors treat English as a subject, not as a language in the classroom. All the methods become worthless when English is not taught as a language and moreover the learners really struggle to get through the effectiveness of all four skills. English movies with the standard subtitles make the much difference in the classroom atmosphere and it helps the learners to develop their listening skills and vocabulary skills.

#### Objectives of the study:

The main objective of the study is to explain how the listening skills and vocabulary of English language can be improved through the movie with the standard subtitles.

#### Hypotheses

The following are the hypotheses of this explanatory study.

- (1) Teachers do not use this important tool to develop listening skill and vocabulary since it takes much effort.
- (2) Teachers treat English as a subject not as a language.
- (3) Students afraid that English is too difficult to learn and they loose their interest.
- (4) Effect of influence of the students' mother tongue in English language learning.

### Discussion

Listening Skill is the base for learning any language and without listening you can not even think to learn other skills of language effectively[1]. A four year child was taken to a hospital with parents and had to meet the logopedist since he couldn't speak. The doctor started to examine his ears and suddenly people who around the doctor laughed at him. It was ridiculous to see the doctor examining that child's ear when none told that the child had any pain in his ears. Seeing the ironic grin the logopedist answered to the unasked question: " If the child is able to listen and understand your speech sooner or later the child will speak". That's how these two skills of speaking and listening are interrelated in English language learning.

Many English teachers of foreign language in a non-native country uses the same method a lot and its believed if the learners can listen and understand the target language sooner or later they will speak. Regardless of how much grammar and vocabulary they know. Kids do not study any grammar, yet they learn how to speak in their mother tongue through the abundance of audience. After all the language teaching is based on the idea that the learners to achieve their communicative competence and ability to use the target language correctly. The desired outcome of the language learning process is the ability to use language exactly as the native speakers do.

English is a global language and learning it becomes a universal demand. English is taught as a mandatory subject in all the schools without exception. However, in many schools speaking is neglect and students study grammar for many years, having no chance to practice their knowledge in real life. They graduate being not able to express their even simplest thoughts. Moreover, I met many English teachers who are not able to speak in English either, and I am not talking about the fluency. It is said that "the best way of learning is teaching"[2]. I absolutely agree with this statement, more the practice, the better the teacher is. Teachers cannot afford themselves to stop learning, searching for new and interesting methods and ideas. A teacher cannot be successful in teaching and prepare successful students for life and for higher educational institutions by using old, traditional methods. It is the teachers' duty to make the class interesting due to a usage of new creative ideas[2]. Using only grammar exercises as a classroom activity doesn't lead to any progress in the foreign language learning process in schools. The continual disappointment of students not being able to express themselves well may lead to a loss of creativity and inspiration. A good teacher should inspire students to overcome their fears and start to speak having basic communicative competence in the target language. The teacher must understand his/her students' minds and correct them, teach them what words and expressions are better to express that particular idea. Some pedagogies claim that correcting students' grammar mistakes while they are speaking breaks their self-confidence and they fail to overcome their fears of speaking in a target language. But there is a risk that students can take the mistake for correct thought and use it further.

Watching English movies with standard subtitles in the classroom proves its effectiveness as a great method that involves in the learning process all the students in the classroom[3]. It's not a secret that the students in the same standard are not at the same level of knowledge. And when the teacher uses standard traditional methods of classroom teaching

he/she is not able to manage the classroom teaching and interaction that the students of all levels be satisfied. Using English movies with subtitles collects the students of all levels around the same idea. They watch the movie. Everyone understands by their level of English. Then they discuss, explain to each other what they understood and ask questions to each other. So that slowest learners are not depressed being left behind and the faster students are not frustrated be being held back.

Nowadays there are lots of English courses and many of them are using English movies and songs with standard subtitles as a mechanical aid to achieve a fast result in teaching. No one doubts the effectiveness of English movies with subtitles. Watching English movies helps learners to improve their listening and vocabulary[4]. They learn how to choose the right word in the particular context. How to use words, how to put them into the phrase and sentences. They must change the attitude towards learning English language and they develop the strategy to recognize and repair communication barriers. In these courses, learners trained to feel very comfortable and even if they have misunderstood or struggle to express their ideas.

The primary goal of language learning process is that both the teacher and the learners should keep up the efficiency in all the classroom situations and also they should try to achieve their proficiency in language learning. They should be aware of the pronunciation, grammar and vocabulary to avoid offending communication partners due to socially inappropriate style and to use strategies for recognizing and managing communication breakdowns in the limit of their vocabulary in the circle of their knowledge[5].

Is it effective to use English movies with standard subtitles in the language learning process?

Yes!

Can we develop language learning process on higher educational institutions based on movies with subtitles only?

No!

Experience shows that the second language development can be achieved through the movies in target language with standard subtitles. As the learners increase their vocabulary very fast and at the same time they develop their listening and reading skills. Then they discuss and analyze the movie or the actors etc. It is acceptable to watch the same movie or an episode several times. Listening is a vital for learning language. Of the four skills (Listening, Speaking, Reading and Writing) listening is the most frequently used. Listening comprehension is difficult for learners, because they should discriminate speech sound quickly, retain them while hearing a word, phrase or a sentence and recognize this as a sense unit[5]. These are all the following aspects the learners can improve listening through the movie with the subtitles.

Visuality

Visuality is one of the main principles of learning helps learners to memorize new vocabulary, phrases and phrasal verbs by remembering the situation and context in which they were used. The principle of visuality is very important in teaching foreign language, since the process of knowledge gaining begins with sense perception[6]. The use of visualization in learning process makes lessons emotionally colored. It creates natural or almost natural situation for the use of the language as a mean of communication.

Kinesthetic

Some people have well developed auditory memory others are good in kinesthetic (emotions, actions, movement, taste, smell etc.) memory but the highest percentage of people have well developed visual memory.

In the language learning process while some teachers are struggling to find out which of these memories are developed in their students and how to select more effective materials to teach them. This method came to make the language learning process easy for both, teacher and student. Language learning through the English movies with subtitles is not a miracle that will teach your student in a matter of second[7]. No, nothing like that! The main trick in this method is that all three types of memories work together. Regardless of what type of memory have your students, they are going to enjoy and success if you use this method.

By watching a movie they can hear the correct words, phrasal verbs, idioms and phrases in the correct form for the particular context. This is good for the students who have well developed auditorial memory. Phonetics is not taught as a school subject so the students learn the pronunciation by copying teacher's pronunciation. So when they watch English movies, they copy the pronunciation of native speakers[7].

Students who have developed kinesthetic memory also can have a benefit of this method. As they memorize emotional moments they will remember much vocabulary by feeling them, the way where and how the words or phrases were used.

For the ones who use the visual memory will have the best result of all. As that they will remember every movement, facial expression of actors, emotions that they used for some particular situation. And if they don't understand something that said, subtitles are there to help them to fill that gap. This method is unique and everyone can use it regardless of age, level, and purpose.

#### Systematicness

Systematicness is another important approach. The former USSR educational system was based on the philosophy that only the systematicness can lead to assimilation of some skill[8]. "Repetition is the mother of education" This sentence was in all schools wallpapers. In the language learning process, systematicness is, however, the most important problem.

The Learning process must be well planned, systematized and regular routine. It is not just my opinion, but proved fact by several studies that students who study every day 20-30 minutes have a better result than the ones who study once a week but 2 hours. In assimilation of a new skill, the most important and difficult is setting one's mind to the new situation.

The brain also needs time to adapt itself. The regular and systematic learning meant to adapt the learners' brain and mind and assimilate new skills. Another problem that manages systematicness is the effective teaching material. Coming back to our research issue - teaching language through the movies with subtitles we must say that it's the teacher's task to choose the proper movie, with the proper vocabulary and clear speech[4]. It is necessary to mention that it is absolutely useless to make students watch the full 2-3 -hour movie in English. The result will be miserable. After 5-10 minutes the students will get bored, yawn and make themselves busy with other things. It is also meaningless as that no one will be able to remember all the new vocabulary (words, phrases, idioms) that they may hear in 2 -hour movie. So why we must take an episode per day. 5 - minute episode is enough for one lesson. 10-15 new words is the amount of new vocabulary that human's mind is able to memorise per day, overloading the students' minds will bring no result , at least not the result we were seeking for. They can watch the movie as many times as it is necessary for them to understand it fully and read the subtitles. Repeat it before they are able to understand the episode without reading the subtitles. If some weak students don't understand something let them ask it in English by using the vocabulary of the movie and the ones who understood it to explain others. This method perfectly increases the level of motivation.

Also we can not neglect the importance of systematicness. No one can guarantee that using the method of English movies with subtitles will be effective if learners do it once a week, month or a year. No matter how effective the particular method is if you do not use it systematically you will not get a result.

On the other hand, we cannot develop language learning process in higher educational institutions based on English movies with subtitles only. As the goal of an undergraduate student is not just making themselves understood. We can use this method in parallel with other methods. As watching English movies with subtitles or without them helps undergraduate students develop their understanding of different accents, street language, slang, archaic words, narrow professional vocabulary etc.

### Accent

The accent is another problem for students while learning the second language. Undergraduate students must be able to understand various accents even the native speakers` accent in their natural speed. Also, they must be able to sound as native speakers. The basic of all language skills is the sound structure[9]. The acquisition of good pronunciation depends on learners` ability of listening with care and discrimination. Pronunciation is constituted with the following four comments like speech sound, the syllabic structure of words, word stress and intonation. Wrong pronunciation often leads to misunderstanding. English is spoken more than one hundred countries as a second language. A person who is learning a foreign language unconsciously continues to use his tongue muscle system in the old ways, the way he uses it for pronunciation of his native language. Involving English movies with standard subtitles in the language learning process in higher educational institutions, develops students` ability to understand different accents and sound as natural as they can, as close to the native speaker as they can.

In this method listening and speaking are taught together. Here is what makes this method so effective. While watching an English movie the learner focuses on the speaker, on their facial expression and body language. Universal gestures can communicate as much as language does. It helps learners to focus their mind in the contest and build the whole picture. So they can guess the meaning of new words by focusing on the idea of the complete

sentence. But if they stay focused on the single word that they will not understand, they miss the idea of the sentence. Thus, every time they are in the similar situation voluntary or involuntary they remember all the vocabulary they listened in the movie[4]. It proves that watching English movies develop students` active and passive memory. Of course, speaking is not possible without the knowledge of basic grammar without forming the grammar mechanism. While watching English movies the students` minds get accustomed to English speech, sounds intonation. Students assimilate simple grammar rules for arranging the words to express various thoughts and feelings. They learn word endings for singular and plural, for tenses and all grammar rules without special grammar lessons only due to abundance of audience and speaking. Listening to a native speaker through English movies learners develops the ability of correct pronunciation, speech sound, the syllabic structure of words, word stress and intonation[4]. Rising and Falling intonations also should be developed during the pronunciation practice. By developing their listening students learn to recognize the word by its sound, stress and position in the sentence. It's very important as that native speakers are speaking very fast and they do not pronounce words endings.

### Conclusion

Coming to the end, we can affirm that language learning process in non-native countries is more productive if you do it through English movies with the standard subtitles from beginner to advanced level learners. Undergraduate students who studied enough grammar, read enough literature, wrote enough need only to practice their knowledge. Watching English movies with subtitles is the most effective way of practicing their knowledge and listening to the native speakers limitless, to know about English people' customs, habits, culture, etc. After all English is not just a language, it is a nation, culture, history and lifestyle.

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